

**Region 5 Water Division
Tribal Water Programs Conference Call
August 21, 2012**

Tribal Participants

Kayla B., Shane B., Jeni B., Red Lake
Perry B., Mille Lacs
Jim S., Oneida
Jessica S., Bad River
Heather P., Menominee
Grant P., Pokagon
Luke H., Stockbridge Munsee
Carey P-S, Saginaw Chippewa
Linda N., Red Cliff
Eric K., Huron Potawatomi
Randy P., Ho-Chunk
Amanda B., Bay Mills
Roman F., Mole Lake
Kira D., Little Traverse Bay Band
Liz B-S., Gun Lake
Bruce H., Lac Vieux Desert

Region 5 Participants

Dan Cozza, Alicia Hernandez and Irene Cook: State and Tribal Programs Branch
Robie Anson, Mari Nord, Andy Tschampa: Water Quality Branch
JJ Schweizer, NPDES
Janette Marsh, Watersheds and Wetlands
Jennifer Manville, IEL – Michigan, IEO

Topics Discussed:

- 1) 319/TSWAMS
- 2) Consultation opportunities
- 3) National Tribal Water Council Update
- 4) Open Forum
- 5) Training/Meeting Schedule

Summary of Discussions *(Additional facts or points may have been added to the conference call minutes to further clarify or expand on points made or missed during the call).*

1) 319/TSWAMS (Non-Point Source and Tribal Surface Water and Monitoring Strategy) Workshop

The 319/TSWAMS Workshop will be held during the week of October 22, 2012 at the Menominee Reservation, co-hosted by Menominee Tribe and Stockbridge-Munsee. The draft agenda and vendor list has been sent to everyone and we are now trying to fill in the time slots with presentations. Janette, David and I took all the results from Luke's poll (Thanks Luke) and put them in order of priority and came up with the draft agenda. For topics in which we do have presenters, we have listed these names in bold. Please note that the conference is now planned to start on Monday afternoon (10/22) with a Wild

Rice Mini-Workshop. This will cover everything relating to wild rice: QAPPs, sulfate studies, Nancy Schuldt's Exchange Network grant proposal, etc. Please let us know if you have a presentation that will fit in this mini-workshop.

For the opening of the workshop on Tuesday, we plan on having our hosts provide someone to give an opening prayer and speakers on the value of water to the host tribes. We may also have a speaker from Oneida representing the WI tribes provide their perspective on water as well. Most of the sessions are on a dual track, but we are trying to have the first sessions in the morning and afternoon be more of a cross cutter interest for both 106 and 319 programs and not having breakout sessions during these times. We are asking everyone to look over the draft agenda and to let us know if you can provide a presentation on the listed topic(s). If you do not see a topic that fits your program, let us know if you have another idea and we will try to fit it in. If your presentation doesn't take the whole 50 minutes, we will double or triple up during a session. Also consider a panel format and consider a poster for a static display of your program. Jim (Oneida) stated that he did confirm that Tony Bush (NRCS) can give a presentation on Non-point source buffers/BMPs and that Oneida can give a presentation on their buffers, and maybe on their culverts/fish passage results. Jim also will check to see if Jeff Mears is available to give a talk on Tribal perspectives on Climate Change. JeniLynn (Red Lake) can provide a talk on Mud River, but may not take the whole 50 minutes.

Field day will be split in two, with half the group touring spots within the Menominee Reservation and the other half touring spots within Stockbridge-Munsee, then flipping in the afternoon session. We hope to have a location to have the water vendors show their equipment and get more hands on experience. Janette and I will visit with Heather and Luke and help find locations to include for field day sometime in early September. We hope to include both the Stockbridge and Menominee Tribal museums in our tour as well.

Vendors: so far we have a good number of vendors excited about attending. These vendors were recommended by many of you and several were at the first TSWAMS at Saginaw Chippewa a couple of years ago. Besides the water sampling vendors (Hydrolab, YSI, Eureka and FTS), we have consulting/engineering firms for BMPs and Nurseries for native plantings as possible attending vendors. We hope to finalize this list soon. Some may sponsor breaks during the conference as well. Some of the vendors may be participating in the conference with presentations if they partner up with a tribe, i.e, a restoration project presentation with the firm and tribe. ERSI may be an exception to that in that they may be doing a presentation on ArcHydro, but not confirmed yet.

Hotel block of rooms at Menominee Casino Complex being set up. Cost per room should be \$89/night plus tax. Heather states that they do have smokers' rooms available upon request.

So, again, look at the draft agenda, and let us know what topic you can present, what panel you can participate in and/or what poster you can provide. Please do this soon so that we can finalize the agenda. Also please RSVP on how many from your Tribe will be in attendance so we can better plan for buses on field day and how many rooms to block, etc. Now is the time to do all this. Thanks

If you have any questions regarding 319/TSWAMS, or want to join in on the fun of the workgroup, please contact Dan Cozza, Janette Marsh, David Horak, Heather or Luke. We do hope to have another all Tribe call in a couple of weeks to check in on agenda updates. Keep an eye open for this invite.

2) Consultation Policy and Consultation Opportunity

All consultation opportunities regionally and nationally, are listed on the EPA Tribal Portal at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oia/tconsultation.nsf/TC?OpenView>

Along with each consultation entry are all appropriate attachments. Also, if a webinar or meeting is to be part of the consultation, it would be listed here as well.

Heads up on three upcoming consultation opportunities:

a) A nation-wide consultation has started and a letter has been sent to all Tribal Chairs regarding consultation on a new EPA strategic plan measure, SP-14b for water quality monitoring stations in Indian Country. Everyone should have received an email this morning from Dan Cozza with this consultation along with the announcement of two webinars to discuss the new proposed measure and a conference call. We have discussed SP-14a over the last several years as a measure that looks at improvements to water quality within tribal waters due to CWA 106 and 319 programs, but now this new measure, based on suggestions from many tribes, will look at tribal waters that are maintaining water quality and meeting tribal uses. SP-14a and b are both voluntary measures, but involvement is encouraged as successes with these measures are good for these two programs. Two webinars have been held during this consultation period. The consultation ends on September 14, 2012. The consultation email/letter contained the schedule for the webinars, explanation of SP-14b and includes a question/answer sheet. Let Dan or Mari Nord know if you have any questions.

This measure, along with other National Water Program measures, can be found at the following website: http://water.epa.gov/resource_performance/planning/FY-2012-NWPG-Measure-Definitions-Water-Quality.cfm and the consultation information can be found on the Tribal portal/TCOTS at <http://www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation>.

b) Regional: Sent August 1, 2012 to most all the Tribes in R5: Invitation to consult on the U.S. EPA's decision to either reaffirm, modify, or withdraw the Agency's objection to a proposed state permit to fill wetlands for the construction of Marquette County Road 595. There is a public hearing on this on August 28, 2012 and a consultation call will be scheduled either prior or just after this hearing. This is the road that will connect the Eagle Mine with Humboldt Mill just west of Marquette, MI. Many tribes were invited to this consultation since this is in or near both the 1836 and 1842 ceded territories. Contact is Melanie Haveman at 312-886-2255. More information on TCOTS

c) Regional: Sent via email on August 16, 2012 to all Tribes in WI and to Prairie Island and Lac Vieux Desert. Invitation to consult on EPA's review of Wisconsin's Rules pertaining to water quality-based thermal effluent limitation calculation procedures. Consultation period runs from August 16 through October 1, 2012. There will be a conference call on this consultation on September 18, 2012 from 1:30-3:30pm CST. Contact is Sean Ramach at 312-886-5284.

d) Regional: Sent August 15, 2012 to GTB, LTBB, LRB, BMIC, and SSM. Notification of Consultation and Coordination on Sault Ste. Marie area tributaries Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in Michigan. Consists of 8 TMDLs covering 8 rivers and creeks in the Sault Ste. Marie Watersheds. Quick response on this one, so if you want to consult, let the contact know by September 1, 2012. EPA expects to finalize its decision

on the proposed TMDLs by September 30, 2012. Contact is Jean Chruscicki at 312-353-1435.

3) National Tribal Water Council Update:

Neither Nancy Schuldt, Fond du Lac, or Kathy Brosemer, Sault Ste Marie, were on the call so no updates this month.

Check the NTWC website for updates at: www.nationaltribalwatercouncil.org or contact Nancy Schuldt, Fond du Lac Band, at 218-878-8010 or at nancyschuldt@fdlrez.com, or contact Kathie Brosemer, Sault Ste Marie, at 906-635-2603 or kbrosemer@saulttribe.net if you have any water issues you would like brought up with the NTWC.

4) Open Forum (not all discussed on call, but updates made after the call)

- a) Bruce Haapala replaced Tom Pietila at Lac Vieux Desert and Linda Nguyen has replaced Laura Armagost at Red Cliff. Welcome to both of you. Looking forward to meeting you at 319/TSWAMS.
- b) Job Opening at Upper Sioux Community for the Director of Environmental Programs. Position Description sent out earlier. Closes this Friday.
- c) Carey at Saginaw Chippewa is looking for copies of outreach materials for youth that are in the format of comic books and are in both English and Ojibwa. Jim S. at Oneida has some and will be calling Carey, but if anyone else has examples, let Carey know.
- d) Happy B-day to Mike S at Hannahville.
- e) RTOC update: Jenny Manville stated that notes from RTOC earlier this month are under development. Grants issues were discussed, mentioned that concerns are not process oriented but customer service issues. These will be addressed. Mining updates also provided.
- f) IEO is already starting to plan the next TEPM (Tribal Environmental Program Management – formerly GAP conference) to be held next February in Chicago. Let your Tribal Liaison know if you have any topics you want to see covered at TEPM.

5) Training/Workshops: (x = continuing announcement and a = new announcement)

- x) Miscellaneous water resource training courses offered by EPA HQ can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/OW/training.html> and on the Tribal Training website at: <http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining/>.
- x) If you are signed up for training alerts under the CWA Training website, you will get email notifications of upcoming CWA related training courses and will get reminders for courses you have registered for. Visit the Tribal Training website at: <http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining/>
- x) Let Dan, David or Jonathan Burian know if you need STORET/WQX training or refresher training.
- x) Past WQS webcasts are available on-line for viewing at your convenience. "Introduction to the Clean Water Act" (2009), and "TAS for the Water Quality Standards Program" and "Introduction to Water Quality Standards" (2010). The web casts have been archived and are available 24/7 at:
http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining/tevent0919_archive.cfm
<http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining/tevent100917.cfm>
<http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining/tevent100924.cfm>
- x) The presentations from the CWA 106/319 conference in New Mexico are now available on line at <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/tribal/conference2011agenda.cfm>

NEW TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) 319/TSWAMS week of 10/22/12 at Menominee Reservation
- b) Great Lakes Regional Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference to be held at Bay Mills, September 10-13, 2012. Contact Amanda Bosak at 906-248-8648 or at abosak@baymills.org or Justin Carrick at 906-248-8645 or jtcarrick@baymills.org.
- c) North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) Symposium November 7-9, 2012 in Madison, WI. <http://www.nalms.org/home/conferences-and-events/2012-nalms-symposium/>
- d) EPA Water Quality Standards Virtual Academy Webinar: WQS 101, to be held on 10/4/12 at 1-3pm est. Register at <http://www.epa.gov/learn/training/standardsacademy/index.cfm>
- e) ~~NTEC (National Tribal Environmental Council) 2012 Annual Environmental Conference, 8/26-29/12. Registration fees. To be held at the Grand Traverse Resort. Go to www.ntec.org for more information.~~ CANCELED, may be held next Spring.
- f) Next conference call on 319/TSWAMS to be held in early September to finalize agenda. So please review and let us know how you will be participating.

Upcoming Dates:

9/10-13/12	Great Lakes Regional Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference at Bay Mills
9/18-2/12	Climate Change Forum, St. Regis Reservation, New York
9/18/12	Next EPA Water/Tribal Monthly Call
10/4/12	EPA Water Quality Standards Virtual Academy Webinar
10/22 week	319/TSWAMs at Menominee
11/7-9	NALMs at Madison, WI

Next Conference Call:

The next Tribal water programs conference call is scheduled for September 18, 2012 at 9am, Chicago time. The date and a reminder will be sent out by Dan Cozza a week or so prior to the call. If Tribes have any suggestions for a topic(s) to be discussed or if you would like to sponsor a topic, please provide your idea(s) to Dan or David. The calls the following months are 9/18/12, 10/16/12 and 11/20/12.

Tribal Contact List Update:

If a new Tribal Chair, a change of address, a change in water resource manager, a change in fax number, etc., occurs, please let us now so that we can make changes to our contact list.

Homework:

- 1) 319/TSWAMS: P-3 = Presentations/Panels/Posters: What can you do to help make this 319 TSWAMS a SUCCESS? Let us know
- 2) TCOTS: Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System: Have you used TCOTS? Positive and negative experiences with TCOTS being sought. Get comments to Dan/David or your IEL.